Government's approval for treatment

†842. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor children suffering from heart disease and deafness are not getting treatment for want of Centre's approval;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of children suffering from the said diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No approval of Central Government is required for treatment of poor children under health care delivery system. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provide financial assistance to the poor patients for taking treatment for life threatening diseases at different Government Hospitals all over the country under the scheme of (i) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and (ii) Health Minister's Discretionary Grants (HMDG). Patients suffering from deafness, which is not a life threatening disease, are not eligible for financial assistance under these schemes. All heart cases for financial assistance are considered on priority.

(c) National Sample Survey Organisation Fifty Eighth round (2002) reveals that the prevalence rate of hearing impaired among the children in the age group of 0 to 14 per lakh population is as under:

Age group	Urban	Rural
0-4	55	55
5-9	142	172
10-14	209	196

Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) is a major cause of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in school - age children in developing countries. In an Indian Council of Medical Research study "Jai Vigyan Mission Mode Project on Community Control of RF-RHD", four registries at Chandigarh, Vellore, Kochi and Indore observed prevalence rates ranging from 0.36 to 1.43 per thousand in school children in the age group of 5-14 years. Several other epidemiological studies carried out between 1980 and 2000 observed prevalence rates of 1.0 to 5.4 per thousand school children. It is estimated that approximately 5,09,000 children are suffering from RHD (23.6 % of total population of 1027 million in 5-15 years of age per National Census Data 2001).

Closure of vaccine manufacturing units

843. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to close down Government-owned three vaccine manufacturing units in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for closure of the above vaccine manufacturing units which have been producing vaccines to contain various diseases;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.